

Remarks

The specification is objected to. Claims 1 and 14 are objected to. Claims 1-4, 12-17, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
5 Piwonka et al (US 6,073,206). Claims 5-11 and 18-24 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

1. Objection to the specification:

10 The disclosure is objected to because of informalities in the abstract and in the Summary of Invention, for reasons of record, as recited on page 3 of the above-indicated Office action.

Response:

15 Paragraph [0009] of the specification and the Abstract have been amended to correct these informalities. The applicant regrets these errors, and believes that these informalities were caused by a formatting program used with when performing electronic filing. Acceptance of the corrected specification is requested.

20 2. Objection to the claims:

Claims 1 and 14 are objected to because of informalities, as recited on page 3 of the above-indicated Office action.

Response:

25 Claims 1 and 14 have both been amended to correct the informalities. Again, it is believed that these informalities were caused by a formatting program used with when performing electronic filing. Acceptance of the amended claims 1 and 14 is requested.

30 3. Rejection of claims 1-4, 12-17, and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1-4, 12-17, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piwonka et al (US 6,073,206) for reasons of record, as recited

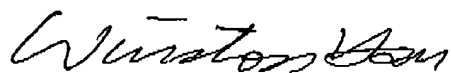
on pages 4-11 of the above-indicated Office action.

Response:

5 Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Claims 5
and 18 had previously been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base
claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of
the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, the
applicant has amended claim 1 to add the limitations of claims 3, 4, and 5.
Likewise, claim 14 has been amended to add the limitations of claims 16, 17, and
10 18. Claims 3-5 and 16-18 have subsequently been cancelled. In addition, claims
7-11 and 20-24 have been amended to properly reflect on the amended claims 1
and 14, respectively. No new matter is introduced through any of these
amendments. Reconsideration of claims 1, 2, 6-15, and 19-26 and a quick
allowance of the instant application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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25 (Please contact me by e-mail if you need a telephone communication and I will
return your call promptly.)